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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

179317 438

INFORMATION REPORT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

COUNTRY Argentina/Hungary

DATE DISTR. 5 April 1968

SUBJECT Hungarian Communist Activities  
in Argentina

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1. It is estimated that there are approximately 25,000 Hungarians currently living in Argentina, the majority of whom are descended from Transylvanians and Slovaks. Approximately 16,000 of them live in or near the federal capital, and the majority of them are factory workers. [REDACTED] that 2,500 of this group are in sympathy with Communism, but that only 400 to 500 of them are members of organized Communist groups.

2. The number of Communist group members is believed to be 60% higher than two years ago for the following reasons:

- Some Hungarians in Argentina have found it convenient to become Communist affiliates in order to avoid reprisals against their relatives in Hungary.
- Many Hungarian Jews feel that England has been unjust in her attitude toward the Palestine problem, and that Soviet Russia offers the best solution.

3. The Argentine pro-Soviet Hungarian group is controlled by 15 or 20 militant Communists, the most important of whom are:

- Bela Erenfeld Szaaz, ex-director of the pro-Communist Hungarian weekly, Uj Világ. He has lived in Argentina for 23 years, is a member of the Communist Party of Argentina (CPA), and is an insurance agent. At present he is in Hungary and it is not known whether he will return to Argentina.
- Bela Szekely, director of the Hungarian Communist weekly, Joyo. He is a 55-year-old Jewish professor, and is considered to be cultured and capable. At the beginning of World War II, he was a member of the Argentine Zionist group and considered to be very pro-English. However, source now classifies him as the number one Hungarian collaborator with the Soviets and a possible Cominform agent.
- Sandor Barna, owner of a bookstore at Calle Maipu 441 in Buenos Aires.
- Istvan (Esteban) Soos, militant Communist who was recently expelled from the CPA for unknown reasons.

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4. Following is a list of the principal Hungarian Communist organizations in Argentina:

- a. Torekves Sport Es Tarsadalmi Egyesulet, Calle Salta 1185, is the largest and most important Hungarian Communist organization and is believed to have approximately 1,250 members.
- b. Magyar Egyesuletek Segelybizottsaga, an aid committee which ostensibly carries on only humanitarian activities, collaborates closely with the organization mentioned immediately above. Its president, Dezso Lukacs, is a 40-year-old Jew and the wealthy owner of a textile factory. He went to Hungary in 1947, and is a staunch supporter of the current regime, principally because of his desire to be an important leader in the Argentine Hungarian group rather than because of true Communist convictions.
- c. Az Avellaneda Magyar Egyesulet, Avenida Galicia 357 in Avellaneda, is a workers' society which has approximately 350 members. [REDACTED] classifies this organization as having Communist tendencies. Luis Varady is its president.
- d. Magyar Kultur Egylet, located at Calle Diana 147 in Rosario, is considered to be completely Communist. It has approximately 100 members.

5. Following is a list of the principal Hungarian Communist publications in Argentina:

- a. Jovo (Future) is the most important Hungarian Communist publication in Argentina. It appears weekly with a circulation of 1,200 and is sponsored by the organization mentioned in 4-a above. Its editorial policy is completely pro-Soviet. This paper replaces the Uj Vilag which had been called Magyar Lapok.
- b. Szabad Szo (Free Word) is a leftist weekly with limited circulation and importance. It normally appears only twice a month.

6. As there is no Hungarian Legation in Buenos Aires, the diplomatic affairs of that country are handled through the Swedish Legation in Buenos Aires in which Istvan Vincze, a Hungarian, is an administrative employee.

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